

thechronicle

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Kidderminster firm's role in Antarctic expedition

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Memory Lane

Local lad who put top stars in the spotlight

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Just champion

Commonwealth judo title for Kidderminster's Andy

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Police get leads in hunt for murderer

DETECTIVES hunting the murderer of retired teacher Betty Yates have fresh leads following an emotional appeal by her son and daughter.

Officers want to trace individuals and cars seen near Mrs Yates's cottage in Bewdley during the early evening of January 2 - the day police believe she was killed.

West Mercia Police said a small number of calls had been received following the appeal by Mrs Yates's children, 53-year-old Hazel Costello and David Yates, 51, earlier this week.

And officers said some had provided fresh information regarding sightings in the area which would not be pursued by police.

Mrs Yates, 77, was found beaten with her own walking stick and stabbed at her riverside cottage, off Dowles Road, on January 4.

Anyone with information is asked to call 0300 333 3000 or Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

In her appeal, Mrs Costello a solicitor in Staffordshire, said: "It seems like it was such a savage attack and it's very difficult to imagine it."

She added while her mum had been described as "feisty" she was unlikely to have been confrontational.

Jobs joy at boom firm

A TIMBER business near Kidderminster is taking on an extra 20 seasonal staff to cope with demand.

Garden and landscape products manufacturer M&M Timber says there has been a swing towards "Good Life" gardening. The firm, at Clows Top, is expecting even bigger sales gains in the spring. Production at its manufacturing centre has increased over the winter. Sales of its Veggiebed were more than 45,000 in the last 12 months - up 60 per cent.

METAL THIEVES HIT CANCER SCREENING

by Heather Large

BREAST cancer screening appointments had to be cancelled in Kidderminster after metal thieves stole an electrical cable at the town's health centre.

About 60 vital appointments had to be cancelled this week after the theft of the cable worth about £200. The cable supplied power to the mobile breast screening unit. Officials said if was feared that 300 appointments would have to be cancelled over the whole week. Luckily, a replacement cable was found and repairs were carried out early in the week.

The theft happened some time between 3.45pm on January 27, and 7.30am on Monday.

The thieves struck at a small green electricity sub station in the grounds of the Bromsgrove Street health centre. They forced the doors open to get at the cable.

The 60 appointments had to be cancelled on Monday. But the clinic was working as normal again by Tuesday.

Independent Community and Health Concern member Jim Parish said he was "absolutely appalled" by the crime.

"Metal thieves just don't seem to care who suffers. They are truly despicable and are the lowest of the low. They are risking their own lives when they steal electrical cables."

"This was also not very good for the patients whose appointments were cancelled."

PC Lee Halford of West Mercia Police said: "The theft of the cable caused a great deal of inconvenience and distress to patients whose appointments had to be cancelled."

"We are checking scrap yards and conducting a number of other inquiries, including looking at CCTV."

Suspicious

"We believe the offenders may have approached from the rear of the health centre site, which backs on to the ring road, so we are appealing for anyone who saw anything suspicious to contact us on 0300 333 3000 quoting incident 725-s-300112, or ring the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111."

Meanwhile a Government crackdown on metal thefts has been welcomed by Mark Garnier, MP for Wyre Forest.

Home Secretary Theresa May said that cash payments for scrap metal would be made illegal. And Mr Garnier said: "I am delighted that the Government has decided to take legislative action to tackle the problem."

"This is only the first of what I hope will be a number of amendments to deal with all stages of the trading of stolen scrap metal."

● Action welcomed, Page 3

Spitfire ace's flying VIP visit



Spitfire fighter pilot Eric Carter, who was a guest at West Bromwich Albion

A SECOND World War fighter pilot received VIP treatment when he paid a flying visit to his beloved West Bromwich Albion.

Eric Carter, who saw the Baggies win the FA Cup at Wembley in 1931, was a special guest of the club at the FA Cup meeting with Norwich City at The Hawthorns.

The 91-year-old great-grandfather, of Chaddesley Corbett, near Kidderminster, who flew Spitfires and Hurricanes in the

war, hit the headlines when he was denied the chance to sit in the cockpit of a Spitfire at the Potteries Museum, near Stoke-on-Trent, because of health and safety rules.

Albion officials who read his story invited him to watch the fourth-round tie from the press box and to meet head coach Roy Hodgson.

"It was a bit different to when I was a lad. When I first saw Albion I used to sneak in between my father's legs," joked Mr Carter.

Protests mount at closure of mail office

MORE than 2,000 people who have put their names to a petition demanding that a Royal Mail delivery office remain in Stourport "cannot be wrong", campaigners say.

Plans to close the site, in High Street, are being considered by the Royal Mail. But the move has sparked a wave of fury in the community.

And officials from the Communications Workers Union say a petition which was launched to save the site from closure, had so far been signed by 2,257 people.

Spokesman Michael Dobbins said: "People do not want this office to be lost to the community and this shows the strength of feeling to the proposals."

"People still have time to sign the petition so it is very likely that there will be even more names by the end."

Royal Mail spokesman Andrew Bell said: "We would stress nothing has been set in stone, and no definite timetable has been drawn up."

"However we have been reviewing offices. Working conditions at this site are not ideal in some respects and we want to improve them."

Royal Mail has said if the office was to close they would look at setting up a collection point in the town where people could pick up parcels.

Apprentice's rare chance

A MASTER wheelwright at Worcestershire Country Museum is looking for an apprentice to learn the traditional craft. Ced Lewis is offering applicants the chance to train as his apprentice at the Hartlebury museum near Kidderminster.

The 82-year-old works on the museum's collection of gypsy caravans. A museum spokesman said it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Call 01299 250416.

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Work gets started on club's £250,000 base

WORK has got underway on building new £250,000 clubhouse for Kidderminster's Samurai Judo Club.

Councillor Marcus Hart helped kick off the construction by breaking the first ground at a special ceremony. The new clubhouse will be on the same site as Gilt Edge Sports and Leisure Club, in Zortech Avenue.

Councillor Hart, deputy leader of Wyre Forest District Council, was joined by Jim Coates and fellow Gilt Edge Director Councillor Dave Little, Maurice and Rowan Sandoz from the Gilt Edge bowling club, Councillor Ian Hardiman from the Samurai club committee, Andrew Haffner, founder and head coach of the Samurai, and Ian Mills, one of the Samurai's senior coaches.

Security

The start of the work follows years of fundraising by club members.

Mr Haffner said: "It's been a long haul, but finally we can start to get our own roof over our heads. This building should see the club move into a new phase with much-improved facilities and also security for the future."

The club is still looking for help to fund some internal fittings.

Most of £250,000 has been raised by Samurai members, with some external support including £10,000 from Kidderminster And District Youth Trust, and £3,000

by Tim Spiers

from the British Judo Association Trust. Local music stars Ballroom Glitz staged a benefit concert which raised over £1,000.

The clubhouse will also be used by Kidderminster Karate Club and other groups. The Samurai are looking for possible users.

The club will have a much larger mat area when their clubhouse is complete, plus improved changing facilities and kitchen area, a video analysis room and a mat area for specialist practice.

It will also be a more solid financial base which will give it security for the future.

The club has more than 130 members and has produced many top-flight judo players. It will have six officials for the Olympics at London 2012, and Kate Walker is battling for a place as a competitor.

Mr Haffner said: "Hopefully we will be able to build on our successes."

For details about the club telephone 0776 1122977.



Left to right, Maurice Sandoz, Councillor Ian Hardiman, Councillor Dave Little, Ian Mills, Andrew Haffner, Councillor Marcus Hart, Jim Coates, and Rowan Sandoz

Pupils are hit with inspectors

THE pupils at Bewdley Primary School won over a team of Ofsted inspectors.

According to the school, the inspectors' parting words were: "We love the children at this school. Please tell them how much we have enjoyed our visit".

After a two-day inspection on in January, inspectors reported that all aspects of the school's work were good.

The four areas reported on were achievement, teaching and learning, behaviour and leadership.

The overall effectiveness grade was also rated as good.

In their letter to the children the inspection team closed said: "All your teachers and staff work very well together as a team - as you do. This makes your school a lovely place to visit."

Headteacher Paul Roper said: "We are very pleased the inspection team recognised the exciting and interesting curriculum at Bewdley Primary and above all the effort and very good behaviour of our children."

The report said the school should continue to focus on more able pupils.

Wildlife agenda

A TALK on the wildlife that can be found on heathland near Hartlebury Common will be held on February 6 at Stourport Boat Club. Paul Allen, manager of Wyre Forest nature reserves, will give the talk starting at 8pm. For details call Dr Joy Rooney on 01298 987 7275.

Register office is streamlined

KIDDERMINSTER register office is celebrating the launch of a new system, called Tell Us Once, which aims to reduce the stress for people when they register a death or birth.

The new service enables people to report a death or birth just once. With consent, the information is shared with a number of central and local government organisations so the people do not have to contact each of them separately.

The move is aimed at making it easier, quicker and cheaper to register a change of circumstances.

To take advantage of the service call the Worcestershire Hub on 0845 603 2859 for advice and to make an appointment.

Worcestershire County Councillor for St Johns, Marcus Hart, said: "I think Kidderminster residents will welcome this new system, especially as it makes it much easier for families at what can be a stressful time."

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Welcome for action on theft of metal

GOVERNMENT plans to tackle metal thieves have been welcomed by Worcestershire County Council.

The council has had more than £100,000 worth of metal stolen during the last 12 months.

Criminals have made off with some 650 manhole and gully covers since the start of 2011, putting people at risk and costing the taxpayer.

Home Secretary Theresa May, announced that changes are to be introduced to make buying scrap metal for cash illegal and to increase fines for those breaking the law.

Councillor John Smith, County Council Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, welcomed the measures.

He said: "A small minority of law breakers have been putting public safety at risk and costing the taxpayer by stealing the manhole and gully covers on Worcestershire's highways."

"Covers have been taken off the road leaving gaping holes on the highways. It really isn't an exaggeration to say this could have resulted in innocent people being seriously injured or even losing their lives."

"Anything that deters these criminals can only be a good thing. I welcome these measures and would ask anyone who spots anything suspicious to get in touch with the police."

Firm has vital role in Antarctic expedition

A KIDDERMINSTER firm is playing a key role in an exciting project to bore through nearly two miles of Antarctic ice to search for life in a buried lake.

Specially-designed bellows made by Beakbane for the National Oceanography Centre will play a crucial role in the project to explore Lake Ellsworth, an ancient lake trapped below the ice of Antarctica.

The project involves drilling through the ice and sending down probes to sample the lake water and sediments on the lake bed.

The bellows will provide a sealed protective container for the water sampling probe, ensuring it remains sterile.

The project is a partnership between the British Antarctic Survey, the National Oceanography Centre and eight UK universities.

Flexible

The five-metre long polyurethane bellows manufactured by Beakbane, of Stourport Road, must stay flexible down to -35C, be tough enough to withstand the journey to Antarctica and withstand exposure to hydrogen peroxide vapour.

Kevin Saw, the mechanical engineer who heads the NOC design team, said the water had been cut off from the outside world for hundreds of thousands, possibly millions, of years.

The results would show

whether life could exist in extreme conditions of pitch dark, water temperatures of -2C and high pressures, and give a window on life on earth in the distant past.

The probe will be sealed inside the bellows - which will previously have been sterilised.

It will then be transported to Lake Ellsworth by sea, air and snow tractor.

"We must make sure we don't take any microbes down there, so the Beakbane equipment is absolutely crucial to the success of the expedition," said Mr Saw.

Beakbane's managing director Mike Southwell said: "It is very exciting to be involved in such a ground-breaking project."

"Our great strength is our ability to produce bespoke products that suit our customer's precise requirements, but this is probably one of the more exotic challenges we have faced so far."

by John Corser



The Beakbane bellows under test at -35C, in a sealed protective container



The bellows will be carried all the way from Kidderminster to Antarctica by air, sea, and finally by snow tractor

Artist's impression of the bore hole to the lake

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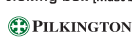
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Business is a piece of cake if you bake for the stars

COOKING up success is a piece of cake for a Stourport mother-of-four who bakes up tasty treats for the stars.

Michelle Guarini launched Bella's Cupcakes from her home in November 2010 after deciding to turn her hobby into a profession. The 40-year-old, of Britannia Gardens, has cooked up a storm ever since catering for pop singers such as Olly Murs, Pixie Lott and boy-band JLS.

Mrs Guarini started baking for fun two years ago and her creations quickly became popular with friends and relatives. Soon, orders were coming in for her to provide cakes for birthdays, weddings and other occasions.

She decided to devote herself to cake making full-time, launching Bella's Cupcakes soon after. The company is named after her eldest daughter 12-year-old Isabella, who helps out whenever she can. Her siblings Leo, eight, Max, seven, and five-year-old Eva enjoy tasting the creations.

Mrs Guarini wanted to take the business to another level and approached a regional radio station with a sampling of her cakes.

Bosses were impressed and asked her to cater for music events and create specialist designs for artists performing at the station.

Mrs Guarini said: "The business was not something I had planned. It is just me in the kitchen baking the cakes."



It's the sweet taste of success for Michelle Guarini whose cupcakes have proven hits with pop stars visiting a local radio station

Church jumble sale date

ALL SAINTS Church, Bewdley, holds its annual charity jumble sale this weekend. Wribbenhall Community Centre, Shaw Hedge Road, hosts the event, on Saturday from 9.30 to noon. Entry is 20p.

Rail ale at a village pub

A NEW micro-brewery has opened in Hartlebury, near Kidderminster. Attwood Ales has been established at The Old Ticket Office pub and restaurant in the village.

The opening of the pub at the former village railway station's ticket office has created 16 jobs with another four in the brewery, which is initially brewing three beers.



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Nursery unveils its new facilities after revamp



Manager Michelle Froggatt, fourth from right, with parents and children at the centre's newly-opened facilities

A NURSERY in Kidderminster has unveiled its new facilities as part of a major refurbishment.

Franchise Community Primary School Nursery, and Chestnut Children's Centre, will both run services at the revamped building, which is at the school's site in Chesnut Grove.

Children and toddlers are already enjoying their new facilities and a second phase of the refurbishment is

due to be completed in March. Cynthia Johnstone, manager at the school nursery, rated as outstanding by Ofsted, said it had been an exciting start to 2012.

"With our lovely new accommodation we can provide opportunities for all our children to enjoy so that they can reach their full potential."

Michelle Froggatt, Chestnut Children's Centre manager, added: "The new facilities mean that we can enhance our sessions and services."

The children's centre supports families with youngsters up to the age of five, offering music, swimming and play groups, as well as an antenatal clinic and breastfeeding support group and courses for adults.

Sarah O'Neill, who was at the unveiling of the new centre with her sons Matthew, nine weeks, and Lewis, 21 months, said: "The new centre is amazing. Everything you need as a parent of young children is available."

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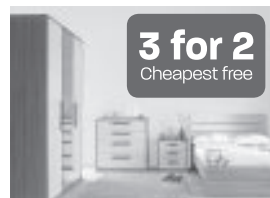
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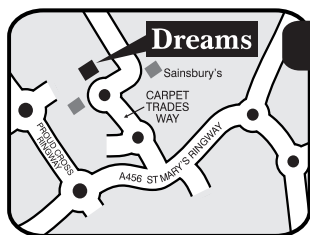
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COMPETITION

thechronicle

Chance to meet Disney princess

EVERYONE loves a bit of Disney magic and that's why the Chronicle has teamed up with the NIA, Birmingham to offer nine readers the chance of winning a family ticket to the Disney On Ice Princesses & Heroes show.

The show is running from Wednesday, March 14 until Sunday, March 18.

As part of the prize, two adults and two children will get the chance to attend the opening night of the show, which promises to take audiences on a fairytale journey through some of the most classic

Fairytale journey through those classic moments

moments in Disney history. Hosted by Tinkerbell, the ice spectacular will see eight Disney princesses see their wishes come true with help from their devoted princes.

You will get to watch Ariel's dreams be

unlocked from under the sea and Prince Phillip defeat evil forces in a race against time to rescue Sleeping Beauty's Aurora.

Rapunzel will fulfil her dream of escaping the tower and see the floating lights; while Tiana celebrates her ambitions of owning a restaurant down in New Orleans.

Ambitions

Jasmine will tell her classic story as she discovers a whole new world with Aladdin and Snow White finds her one true love.

If that wasn't enough already, Tinkerbell will also help to reveal Cinderella and Belle's deepest wishes.

To find out more about Disney On Ice Princesses & Heroes visit www.thenia.co.uk



HOW TO ENTER

To stand a chance of winning answer the following question:

What is Rapunzel's dream?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number (only one entry per household) to Disney competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.
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Primary to be academy

A PRIMARY school in Stourport will become the first in Wyre Forest to be granted academy status.

Staff at Lickhill Primary School have been given the go-ahead. Headteacher Helen Davies said the move, which will free the school from council control, had been backed by parents and governors.

Lickhill will be the first primary school in Wyre Forest to have academy status and one of only a handful in Worcestershire.

Mrs Davies said the school had been able to apply to be converted into an academy because it had been rated as "good" in its last Ofsted report.

Blessing for cemetery

A £4.2 MILLION cemetery and crematorium for the whole Wyre Forest district will be officially opened later this month with a ceremony led by the Bishop of Worcester.

Wyre Forest District Council has announced that the Minster Road site, which has taken more than a year to build, will open from February 24.

A service of dedication will be held to mark the occasion which will be attended by representatives from religious groups and council officials.

The service will be led by the Bishop of Worcester, the Rt Rev Dr John Inge.

Construction work finished earlier this month but the official opening was delayed until a time when religious leaders could attend to bless the site.

A limited number of services have already taken place but the site will be brought fully into use after the opening ceremony has been held.

The cemetery and crematorium was originally expected to open last year after building work started in 2010.

But the scheme was delayed for access works to be completed and for the last plots to be taken at the district's former main burial ground in Park Lane.

The new site has full burial and cremation facilities, including a chapel of rest, and has been designed for use by all faiths.

Proud

Cabinet member for community well-being on the district council, Councillor Tracey Onslow, said she was pleased a date had now been

announced for the opening of the new facilities at the 23 acre site.

"This has been a long-running project but one which we are very proud of," she said.

"Everyone who has seen the site has been impressed by it. It has been designed to serve the needs of the Wyre Forest community for years to come."

"We are pleased the ceremony has now been arranged. The Bishop of Worcester has accepted our invitation to lead the event."

The site includes a tree-lined avenue and landscaped areas featuring wild flowers, grasses, rockeries and a pond with a bridge.

The project has been created by the council with Dignity PLC and managed by Parkwood Consultancy Services.

Views sought on how to improve life in town

A £250,000 SCHEME has been launched to improve the appearance of a Wyre Forest town and deal with long-running traffic problems.

Worcestershire County Council has set aside the funding to tackle issues in Bewdley and is now asking residents and traders for comments on what they want to see.

An information event was being held on Monday (January 30) at the Guildhall, in Load Street, for people to give their views on the project.

Residents are being asked for their opinions on how the funding should be prioritised.

Among the improvements suggested include improving shared cycling and pedestrian paths, better bus shelters, street lighting, seating areas, pedestrian crossings and signs.

Creating areas where pedal bikes can be

parked has also been put forward as a consideration when revamping the town.

Residents will also be asked for their views on how traffic congestion can be better managed and air quality improved.

People who cannot attend but still want to have their say can go online to www.worcestershire.gov.uk/bewdleyscheme website.

Councillor John Smith said: "Funding has been set aside to improve transport and the attractiveness of Bewdley. Before final decisions are made on exactly what should be included in that package we want to hear from residents and businesses."

County councillor for Bewdley, Councillor John Campion added: "It aims to tackle some of the issues local people have raised, such as traffic congestion. There's now the opportunity to help shape how that funding should be prioritised."

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School's success



Alveley Primary School headteacher Jackie Cutcliffe with year 6 pupils.

IT WAS smiles all round for youngsters at Alveley Primary School when they found out they had been judged one of the best in the county following its 'outstanding' SATs results.

Every pupil at Alveley Primary School achieved Level 4 or above in English and maths.

Headteacher Jackie Cutcliffe, who took up the post last term, said the results were an improvement on last year.

"These results are the result of hard work by all the pupils and staff in the school," she said.

Dedication

"The dedication of teaching and support staff enables all the children at Alveley Primary School to make excellent progress and achieve their individual potential."

"The teachers are continually updating themselves and keeping abreast of the new curriculum and changes that may have been made. We are always willing to try new ideas."

Mrs Cutcliffe said Alveley prided itself on being an 'inclusive school', which catered for all its pupils learning needs.

"If we have children who perhaps learn better in a slightly different way we can personalise the curriculum so it suits them," she said.

Dancers ready to turn on the styles

DANCERS are warming up to bid for a top title at the 2012 Wyre Forest Dance Festival

It will take place at Stourport Civic Hall from February 13 to 17.

More than 800 contestants are expected this year and dancing styles will include ballet, modern, Greek and national.

The festival will finish with the junior, intermediate and senior championships at the end of the week.

Spectators are invited to come and watch competitors at a charge of £3 per person for adults. It will be £2 for children and senior citizens. Dancing starts at 9am and finishes at around 8pm.

Programmes available at £2 each are now on sale from the Kidderminster Hub at Kidderminster Town Hall or at the Stourport Civic Centre.

Talk on ancestors

VISCOUNT Cobham, of Hagley Hall, near Stourbridge, will be talking to a local history society about his family and their ancestral home.

Lord Cobham's session with Belbroughton History Society will be at Belbroughton Church Hall on Wednesday, March 21, at 8pm and entrance will be £2.

For further details call Sarah Bradley on 01562 731025 or Sarah Snowden on 01562 730772.

Aim for picture perfect

PHOTOGRAPHERS are being urged to get snapping ready to enter a calendar competition in aid of five Midland hospices.

Webbs Garden Centres in West Hagley is launching its photo contest for the eighth year after it proved such a hit with customers.

CLUB NEWS

Club hands £400 to hospice team



Harold Foster, right, presents cheques for £400 to Simon Cater and Sally Woods, fundraisers for Compton Hospice, after his year as Probus president

PROBUS Club of Wednesfield was pleased to welcome Mr Simon Cater and Ms Sally Woods from Compton Hospice, Wolverhampton.

The president's charity for 2011 raised a total of £400, and the immediate past president, Harold Foster, and Probus members had great pleasure in presenting the cheques to Simon and Sally at the club's January meeting.

Best wishes were expressed for their future fundraising and for the hospice.

PROBUS CLUB WEDNESFIELD

Simon and Sally spoke of the work at Compton Hospice, and the help they can give patients, carers and relatives.

A further presentation was made to Arthur Windsor to show the Probus club's appreciation for more than 22 years in office as treasurer.

Annual sub raised to £25

OWING to increases in certain areas, the annual subscription will be raised to £25, due in February, and the monthly attendance fee to £1.30 from March.

The arts and crafts group meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday in the month from 2pm-4pm.

The ramblers should contact Jill Dunn regarding

WOLLASTON 'E' TWG

venues and times, and "Tea and Talents" will meet on the 3rd Monday of the month from 2pm-4pm.

There followed much discussion on how to celebrate the annual dinner - or should it be an outing? A

vote will take place at the next meeting. The minutes secretary announced her retirement and a replacement must be found - also a new committee member, both to be settled at the AGM in March.

Proceeds from the Cobden Street Church carols have been sent to children's charity Little Hearts Matter.

thechronicle

Challenge to young speakers

K'MINSTER SOROPTIMISTS

KIDDERMINSTER & District Soroptimists are calling for budding young public speakers to enter the 10th public speaking competition organised by Midland Arden Region Soroptimists.

Dudley Council Chambers, in Priory Road, Dudley, is the venue on Saturday, March 24.

An invitation has been extended to local schools to encourage students aged 14-18 to participate and be sponsored by the Kidderminster Soroptimists.

There is a prize of £150 for the overall winner plus a trophy for the school for one year. The second prize is £75 and the third is £25. Each participant will receive a certificate of achievement and a £25 book voucher from the sponsoring club.

The closing date is February 15 and details can be obtained from Stephanie Ainsley on 01562 632 889 or by email at kidderminster.sorop@gmail.com.

At the January meeting, Soroptimists heard from Home-Start Co-ordinator, Claire Howard on the work this charity does providing support and friendship to families in Wyre Forest.

Ninety volunteers have been welcomed into 178 families over the past year.

Members were delighted to hear that their donations had provided for a day out at Weston-Super-Mare in the summer and a Santa Safari at Christmas.

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LETTERS

This unfair law must be changed

I WATCHED the dangerous dogs programme on the BBC with dogs being put down.

Some of these dogs were extremely dangerous and I agreed with them being put down. But amongst these dogs were innocent dogs who were put down. There was one in particular, the police collected him from his owner after a complaint from a neighbour.

When the police dog handler collected the dog the policeman said this dog is friendly and not a dangerous dog, but because of the complaint he had to take him away and measure the dog to

see if he conformed in size to a pit bull. Because of its size and shape it was decided that it was a dangerous dog and the owner was asked to attend court and the magistrate decided that because of the measurements the dog must be destroyed.

Some days later the police dog handler collected the dog and took the dog to the vet to be destroyed, during this time the dog was wagging his tail and was loving every minute of the attention it was getting.

The police officer said that the law was wrong and just because of the

measurements an innocent dog had to be destroyed. This law must be changed, its temperament and behaviour must be the deciding factor.

This poor innocent dog who had the utmost faith in us humans was destroyed because of its measurements, he had his faith in us until his last wag of his tail and the memory of this injustice will be with me for the rest of my life. This law should be changed as soon as possible.

**J Greensill,
Longbank,
Bewdley.**

We need a fresh look at issue of car parks

WYRE FOREST District Council will shortly be drawing up its budget.

There are car parks close to each of the three town centres that are under used.

This is an opportunity to provide limited free access to help stimulate the local economy.

How many businesses survive or go under will depend on the flexibility of councils to offer incentives for shoppers to spend their cash locally rather than at out of town developments or on the internet.

The amendments to the WFDC car parking charges implemented last year, after questionable "consultation", need a fresh, realistic approach.

**Graham Ballinger,
Independent Community and Health Concern Party, Wyre Forest Parliamentary Spokesman.**

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

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Ducking euthanasia debate is cowardice

WE are constantly reading about the arguments for and against assisted suicide and euthanasia, and no doubt both the for and againsts contain some merit in one form or other.

Sadly, people of all ages at some time in their lives become terminally ill and with no hope of an "immediate cure" could very well wish to end their lives peacefully and with dignity.

It's the same as "very old" people who, myself being 81, have often said they wish the Lord would "come and take them".

At the moment I am not in that category being relatively sound in mind and body, but who knows what's around the corner for us all?

So I fully support the lady who recently called it "cowardice" by our MPs for not having a debate on an issue which they themselves might one day wish was in place for one's untimely demise.

**Mrs M Payne,
Dudley.**

Power of the sun can bring in money

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Just small fraction of fly-tippers are caught

THOUSANDS of complaints are being made about fly-tipping in the West Midlands region – but only a fraction of the culprits are being caught.

More than 6,000 piles of rubbish have been found over the past year, with just 30 prosecutions by councils.

The authorities say it is difficult to track down those responsible, especially as the rubbish is often left miles from their homes, but they have vowed to continue their crackdown.

Warned

They have warned that those caught could face court bills of thousands of pounds.

In Sandwell, in 2011, there were 2,726 reported incidents of fly-tipping, with five prosecutions, compared with 3,189 reports in 2010 and one formal caution.

Wolverhampton City Council dealt with 2,748 incidents in 2011, with 10 prosecuted. The number of reports in 2010 was 3,669 with 13 prosecutions.

In Dudley eight people have been prosecuted since April, and there were 548 incidents during that period. In 2010-11 a total of 20 people were prosecuted out of 817 reports.

There have been 253 incidents in South Staffordshire since last April, resulting in seven prosecutions.

Symphony of praise as city venue celebrates 21 years

STANDING tall in the centre of Britain's second city, for the past 21 years the Symphony Hall has acted as a beacon for the biggest and best names in national and international music.

The music of pop icons such as Gary Barlow, Morrissey, Ringo Star, and East 17 has rung out through the hall alongside classical legends such as Ludovico Einaudi and the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Top comedians such as Lee Evans, Jimmy Carr, and Tim Minchin have also commandeered the stage as part of an ever-eclectic line-up.

The man at the helm, director of both Town Hall and Symphony Hall Andrew Jowett, took some time from his busy schedule to chat about the history behind the iconic venue.

Skilled

"It's one of the most significant buildings ever to be built in Birmingham," he says. "It was one of the major leaders in the regeneration of the city centre back in the 80s."

Mr Jowett, aged 61, of Pershore, Worcestershire, joined the Symphony Hall crew in November 1988, nearly three years before it opened to the public.

He spent the next few months bringing together a skilled behind-the-scenes team and making sure the best names in the business knew what the hall had to offer.

It opened on April 15, 1991, welcoming 4,000 people to two concerts by the resident City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Simon Rattle.

The successful first night was followed by the weekend-long British Gas Flame of Youth Festival, with Prince Edward gracing the event.

"People sometimes say to me is there



The hall still looks as modern as it did 21 years ago



The control panel helps produce the sound



Director Andrew Jowett

It is 21 years since Symphony Hall opened its doors for the first time. CHARLOTTE CROSS goes behind the scenes of the city venue

anything you would change if you could go back and build it again. But I honestly don't think I would – the building fundamentally worked from the word go. The minute we heard the first notes in the hall we knew it worked," Mr Jowett says.

"The biggest problem for most concert halls is that classical, orchestral music sounds fantastic, but amplified music just doesn't work. But we have the facility to change the reverberation and acoustics of the room which makes it work."

"We can host Billy Connolly one night and Die Meistersingers the next. Liza Minnelli and Bruce Springsteen have played here, we have the Christmas carol concerts, and we have Lord of the Dance coming up in March."

One of his main points of pride, he said, was that the building is still as good as new.

This has been achieved by making much of the interior concrete and granite, with the wooden-look panels, actually a timber veneer burned onto concrete, to help both with acoustics and longevity.

All replacement works, such as new seating, tends to be done during the quiet summer months to avoid having to close.

"Around 10 million bums have sat on those seats and the wooden floors have seen a lot of stiletto heels, as well as thousands of people passing through the halls, so we have to have a regime in place," he says.

Since the doors first opened to the public it has hosted a number of famous faces off the stage as well as on. When the G8 conference came to the city in 1998, Tony Blair, Bill Clinton and Jacques Chirac spent one evening at a concert at the hall. Smaller con-

certs and lesser-known names are not overlooked, either.

Hundreds of people flood into the foyer bar for the free music events held there, including the weekly Rush Hour Blues event on a Friday night, and the monthly Sax in the City jazz concert. Wolverhampton star Beverley Knight has performed there five times over the past six years.

"It's like the Albert Hall in terms of prestige, but has better acoustics," she says. "As an artist, when you're standing on that stage looking out at the audience it really feels like something special."

Among the regulars are Welsh male voice choir Only Men Aloud. Member Tim Rhys Evans says: "To think of the 'greats' who've stood on that stage before you is always humbling. She's still looking good after 21 years."

More fire and police workers are leaving

MORE than 1,000 fewer firefighters and police are protecting the West Midlands compared with three years ago.

Around five uniformed officers a month are leaving West Midlands Fire Service and not being replaced because of cuts – around 120 since March 2009.

West Midlands Police has also lost more than 800 officers and specials in the same time as it copes with its own £126 million cuts.

Challenge

Staffordshire Police has lost 118 of the 2,877 police officers, community support officers and specials it had in 2009. But Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service has seen a rise of 18 uniformed staff in the same period.

The West Midlands Fire Service is facing £30m of cuts over four years.

Councillor John Edwards, chairman of West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority, said: "We have not recruited any firefighters for almost three years and we lose five uniformed members of staff each month."

Staffordshire Police deputy chief constable Douglas Paxton said: "With the challenge of saving £38m by April 2015 and with 86 per cent of our budget spent on staff costs, it is unavoidable that the organisation has to operate with fewer people."

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Signed photographs from Bing Crosby, who was friendly to the staff, comedy duo Laurel and Hardy and Chico Marx, one of the Marx Brothers

Bert, front right, with his arms folded when he worked at the Hippodrome

The days when Bert shone light on Hippodrome stars

BERT Walker put Hollywood stars, quite literally, in the spotlight when they graced the stage of one of the Midland's most popular theatres.

The Black Country lad rubbed shoulders with some of the greats from the world of entertainment when he worked at Dudley Hippodrome. Bert was just a teenager when he landed his much-loved job as a lighting technician.

And now, following his death at the age of 81, his sister Veronica has opened up his treasured photograph album which reveal his collection of memories from the world of showbiz.

Personalised signed photographs and beloved pictures taken by his colleagues feature in the album, which Bert handed over to his sister before he died last month.

"He never forgot his time at the Dudley Hippodrome as he'd absolutely loved his life there," says the grandmother-of-one who lives in



By Andrew Turton

Beerwood. Bert grew up on Dudley's Wrens Nest estate, attending Wrens Nest Primary School and the former Park School.

The Hippodrome opened on December 19, 1938, as a twice-nightly theatre. It regularly attracted packed houses for plays, variety shows, musicals and pantos starring such acts as Harry Secombe and The Eric Winstone Band.

In 1945, when he was still a teenager, Bert started work in the theatre's 'spotbox'. The role involved managing the spotlight as it followed performers on stage.

For starstruck Bert, each show brought another celebrity performer to the theatre during its 1940s heyday.

One show he would be working for legendary comedian Bob Hope, next it would be lighting the piano for

Chico Marx. Judy Garland had been one of his favourites despite her young age, describing her as "a sweet kid".

Singer Tessie O'Shea was also one of his highlights as was Bing Crosby, who had been "very friendly" to all the staff. Dozens of signed photographs were collected by Bert as stars thanked him for his work on their shows.

By 1949 Bert had begun dreaming of the bright lights of Hollywood lighting stage shows and motion pictures. He moved to America in 1952 but after he married he gave up on those dreams.

The writing was on the wall for the Dudley Hippodrome not long after. The growing popularity of television and films was blamed for the slow decline in attendances and it finally closed in 1964.

After a number of entertainment ventures, Bert converted it in 1992 into a bingo hall, which it remained until September 2009.

It now stands boarded up with its future unclear.



Judy Garland, who Bert described as a sweet kid



From the album, George Formby, left, and Frankie Howerd

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NEWS

in brief

Cathedral to host dynamic dance

A DYNAMIC evening of dance is on offer at Worcester cathedral.

David Bintley, Director of Birmingham Royal Ballet, will introduce internationally known London-based Spring dance Company and their acclaimed work Bread of Life.

Canon Dr Alwyn Pettersen, said the audience would have an evening to remember.

Tickets at £4 can be bought from Worcester Live box office on 01905 611427.

Musical on stage at town church

ST ANNE'S CHURCH hosts two performances of Benjamin Britten's musical Noah's Flood tomorrow (Friday).

The play features performers from Bewdley Primary School, The Bewdley School, Wyre Forest Young Voices and The Severnside School of Dance.

They will be joined by professional musicians and singers.

The performances are at 2pm and 7pm. Tickets, for adults and £1 for children, are available on the door by calling the church on 01299 405385.

History surgery

THE Wyre Forest Historical Research Group holds a family history surgery tomorrow (Friday) at Kidderminster Library, 1 to 4pm. The event is free but to book a 20 minute slot telephone Gay Hill on 01562 746370.

Parents join campaign to turn school around

A SCHOOL in Kidderminster is celebrating the success it has had in getting parents to help with improving its performance.

Teachers at St Mary's in Kidderminster say it is now the most improved school in Worcestershire, and the involvement of parents has been a significant factor in turning it around.

The school won a national award from education charity HTI (Heads, Teachers & Industry) in July for creating dedicated, sustainable projects aimed at significantly increasing the role of parents and the local community.

Several of the key projects began over a year ago, and are now making a noticeable, measurable difference. The "Go4it" projects have made a "massive impact on pupils and parents", said deputy head Joel Marshall.

Impact

One initiative, St Mary's Angels, has raised impressive sums to support the school.

"It has taken a tremendous amount of effort and innovation to get to this point", said Mr Marshall.

He said the St Mary's Angels project had made a big impact on both parents and pupils.

Launched in October, it has raised £1,300 so far.

"The funds will enable us to introduce all kinds of creative and technical equipment designed specially to increase creativity and innovation in the way our pupils learn about the world," said

by Tim Spiers

Mr Marshall. "This will include a performance stage and exciting new computer technology."

It's not just the pupils who benefit. One "Angel" told the school that the project had "given her a purpose in life".

The school's leadership team's efforts to involve the school in the community have extended not only to the Women's Institute, the local Rotary Club and to Sainsbury's, but also to plans for a link with a school in India.

"We've progressed from being a poorly performing school with low levels of attainment and motivation, and a 'them and us' culture with parents, to a go-getting team of teachers, parents and local organisations all working together to inspire our pupils," said Mr Marshall.

"HTI has played a key role in helping our leadership team gradually shift the culture of the school and form stronger relationships with our local community."

To find out more, contact the school on 01562 824327.

Curtain up for pupils on healthy eating



Pupils, from left, Charlie Mai Moule, James Cooper and Courtney Hope, who were taught about healthy choices by actors Anyssa Baki and Alistair Bloomer

PUPILS at a Stourport school now have no excuse not to eat their greens after being taught all about healthy eating and fitness.

Burlish Park Primary School youngsters were paid a visit by London-based Quantum Theatre, whose actors performed an educational play called Personal Best.

The comedy followed the trials and tribulations of chief character Charlie on her healthy journey of enlightenment.

Joseph Lindley, healthy schools co-ordinator at Burlish Park, said the show was a real hit with all year groups.

"Burlish Park has Healthy Schools Status and the show was part of our curriculum studies to encourage a healthy lifestyle," Mr Lindley added.

"Many key messages were taught to the pupils using rhymes and songs and they have been saying and singing these around school ever since, which is excellent."

"It improved their knowledge and understanding about the importance of eating five portions of fruit and vegetables a day, the importance of eating a balanced diet and also about keeping fit and healthy."

Head is delighted by praise in report

A SCHOOL in Kidderminster has been praised for its distinctiveness and effectiveness.

Wolverley CE Secondary School was inspected last month by inspectors from the Church of England.

Part of the Church of England family of schools since 2007, it has made rapid improvements. The school is now classed as "outstanding" at meeting the needs of all its learners.

Head Teacher, Richard North, was delighted, and said:

"Wolverley has improved consistently. This inspection rewards the very hard work of students, staff and parents. The school is very well placed to continue to grow and provide a very distinctive education."

The inspector was particularly keen to comment on the positive, calm learning environment saying that, "This is a well-ordered community with a high level of mutual respect."

The report added: "The vision of the head teacher, supported by his staff and governing body, is creating an effective, forward-looking and caring school."

Teacher Kerry Poole, co-ordinator of personal, social and religious education will continue to play a leading role in building on the strengths of the school.

The report said: "There is a very real sense that this school is on a journey, with secure roots being carefully nurtured and growth monitored and encouraged."

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HS2 campaigners are weighing up legal battle

CAMPAIGNERS against the planned £32 billion high speed rail line are looking into how to launch a judicial review of the scheme.

Court action could delay the 2016 start date of the controversial HS2 project which will see 225mph trains running between Birmingham and London from 2026. Supporters say it will create 22,000 jobs in the West Midlands and boost the region's economy by £1.5bn a year.

But organisations including councils, environmental groups and action groups are investigating the possibility of a judicial review following transport secretary Justine Greening's decision to proceed with the project.

Setbacks hit opening of multi-million pound Tesco

THE opening of a controversial multi-million pound supermarket in Stourport will not take place until 2013 – months later than originally planned.

The new Tesco was expected to open this summer after work started at the former Carpets of Worth site, in Severn Road, last August. But bosses have revealed the 45,000sq ft

Warning on fake emails asking for cash help

A WARNING has gone out over an email fiddle which tries to persuade people to pay out money.

Worcestershire Regulatory Services say a number of people have received emails which appear to come from friends who are overseas.

The emails say the friend is in need of help and requires money to be sent through a Western Union transfer.

The emails contain personal details of individuals who are overseas.

The team is aware of one case where a Worcestershire resident paid out £1,300 and then found out the email was a scam.

People are being warned not to fall for the trick and if they are concerned about friends who are overseas, they should contact them through known email addresses or contact numbers, and not via unsolicited emails.

Steve Jorden, Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services, said: "Scams are designed by criminals to grab the attention of the reader and often play on an individual's hopes and concerns. This kind of scam is particularly unkind as it raises concerns for the safety of friends and family." To report scams or for further advice please contact Consumer Direct on 08454 040506. Scams can also be reported to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

Confused birds stay away from gardens

THE mild winter may mean some commonly-seen birds are proving elusive in gardens, the RSPB said as it launched its annual birdwatch.

The confusing weather has seen temperatures swing between warm and freezing, but the generally mild conditions have meant more food for birds in the countryside. It means that birds have not been visiting gardens for food. But people taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch may have noticed that spring is starting early, with some birds already checking out potential nesting spots.

Half-a-million people took part in the event, counting the birds in their gardens and recording the highest number of each bird species seen at any one time.

store was not now expected to open until March next year.

Work has been taking place on roads around the site to create a new access for the supermarket.

This phase of the project is expected to end in April, according to officials, and was required to be the first completed.

Construction work on the store is expected to start after the access has been finished.

Work at the site was set to begin early last year but some details of the development took longer to finalise than expected.

And the official opening has now been pushed back by around six or seven months to the spring of 2013.

The supermarket will create 200 full and part-time jobs.

Plans for the store have proved controversial after rival firm the Mid-Counties Co-operative launched a legal bid against the development.

It argued the new supermarket would kill trade in the town centre but planning permission was upheld by the Court of Appeal.

Tesco spokesman Jonathan Simpson said: "The road is due for completion in April of this year and the store is now due to open in early March 2013."

Appeal for blood

AN appeal for blood donors to attend a session in Kidderminster has been made.

It is on February 10 at Trinity Methodist Church, Churchfields. The times are 1.15pm to 3.30pm, and 4.30pm-7.15pm. Booking an appointment is recommended. People can call 0300 123 23 23.

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First stage
nears end

THE FIRST stage of a project to revamp parts of Wyre Forest is almost complete.

Work to demolish maisonettes in Kidderminster to make way for new homes will be finished soon.

The Community Housing Group is knocking down five maisonette blocks and building 97 apartments and houses off Hurrecott Road, at the junction with Stourbridge Road. Kier Partnership Homes intend to build 22 two-bedroom houses, 18 three bedroom, 11 four bedroom and 46 two bedroom flats, on the same site.

£7m bus station has its pigeon problem netted

NETS have been put up to protect new glass shelters at the £7million Stourbridge bus station from becoming perches for pigeons.

Designers of the interchange realised the new glass walling on the shelters could form a tempting spot for the birds to gather.

Experts were called in, and work has now been carried out. Staff from Eco Environmental Services have installed harmless anti-bird netting.

There are 11 upgraded stands at the station. Each is fitted with automatic doors which open when the bus arrives.

The protective measures are among the latest works at the development which is rapidly taking shape in Foster Street East.

Work has been going on at the interchange since the old bus station was closed in October 2010.

The station is due for completion by the spring. Much of the work, including construction of the frame, roof and walls, on the main bus station building

was completed at the end of last year.

A date has not yet been set for when it will open but bosses at transport authority Centro said the development was on schedule.

Spokesman Ed McDonald, of contractors Interserve, said: "The project to protect the shelters has been challenging and Eco Environmental Services have been very innovative."

Centro spokesman Steve Swingle added the measures would keep the interchange looking smart."

MP backs clock change despite Commons defeat

A WEST MIDLANDS MP has voiced his support for moving the clocks forward by one hour, despite a Bill failing to get through the House of Commons.

Chris Kelly, MP for Dudley South, backed the Daylight Saving Bill, which received its third reading in the House of Commons on Friday, January 20.

If the measure had gone through, it would have meant that a detailed study would have been commissioned into the costs and benefits of moving the clocks forward to Greenwich Mean Time plus one hour in the winter and two in the summer. That would possibly have been followed by a three-year trial.

Despite Government support for the proposal, the move faced opposition from MP who believed the extra hour of darkness in

the morning would cause problems, particularly in the north.

Mr Kelly said: "The arguments in favour of clock change are compelling. This simple low-cost policy could bring wide ranging benefits to the whole of the UK."

The benefits would include saving lives on our roads, creating jobs in the tourism sector, and reducing the fear of crime on dark evenings.

Among the arguments put forward by opponents of the move, was the fear that some parts of the country would not get light until as late as 9am.

But supporters of the change argue that lighter evenings would save lives on the roads during the late rush hour.

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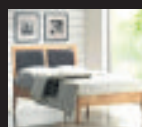
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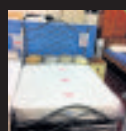
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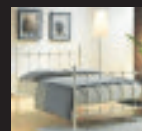
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Snappers' work shown



Helping set up the exhibition, left, chairman Barry Evans, secretary Eric Broadbent, and back, programme secretary Roy Johnson at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery

FROM speedway racing to scenic winter views, keen amateur photographers in the Black Country are showcasing the best of their work.

Hundreds of pictures are being showcased in the annual exhibition by Dudley Camera Club.

Around 180 photographs adorn the walls of Dudley Museum and Art Gallery while a further 126 are projected onto a large screen.

Club secretary Eric Broadbent says members always look forward to displaying their work.

"We hope as many people as possible will come and have a look," said the 82-year-old from Halesowen.

The exhibition runs until March 3 and is open from 10am.

Pack to help disabled handle their finances

A RESOURCE pack which provides financial help and advice for people with learning disabilities has been launched by Wyre Forest MP Mark Garnier.

He sponsored a Parliamentary reception on behalf of Barclays Money Skills and the Kidderminster-based British Institute of Learning Disabilities (BILD).

The event was held to celebrate the launch of a resource pack designed to help people with learning disabilities to open and maintain a bank account.

BILD, based in Kidderminster, is committed to improving the lives of people with learning disabilities and family carers. More than 40 people attended - including senior representatives from Barclays, BILD and Mencap, family carers and people with learning disabilities who contributed to the pack.

Mr Garnier said: "This resource pack is so important because it gives people with learning disabilities the ability to manage their own money confidently and securely."

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JOY very hot fun loving 35yr old American female over on regular business, looking for English gent for mutually convenient friendship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378507 §

SUZANNA lonely beautiful classy French lady looking for happy decent reliable man for lots of TLC and good times. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 377511 §

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 377432 §

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CAROL petite brunette, 38yrs, romantic, affectionate, outgoing, seeks similar male for nice times together. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 377513 §

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TRACY attractive young blonde with great figure, likes nights in/out, looking for stimulating male for interesting nights. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380389 §

BIG is beautiful! Female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368528 §

40'S LaLadi, lovely curves, solvent but lonely, seeks nice older male to pamper, enjoy fun and affection with. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 358135 §

DEENA sophisticated, feminine, loves role play, seeks solvent older business gent 50yrs plus for fun relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383059

SARA educated independent attractive female, nervous about dating through advertising, so please don't disappoint me by not replying. I promise I won't disappoint you! Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383061

DONNA naughty 40's, pretty, loves nights in, gym, theatre, seeks someone to make me laugh, give lots of cuddles and go on fun dates. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383063

JEAN 71, fun loving Shrewsbury lady, seeks caring gent of similar age. GSOH. N/S for companionship/outings. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 373657

LOVING

caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH. 58-62. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 364651 §

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383325 §

TRISHA 50, attractive, black, outgoing, thoughtful, caring, understanding, likes holidays, seeks similar loving gent. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383073

SARAH 52, fun loving, affectionate, outgoing, likes pubs, meals out, walks, holidays, seeks kind, romantic, loving man. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382359 §

SINGLE mum, 36, 2 children, seeks fun loving male with GSOH. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382595 §

5FT 1ins female, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-50. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382099

ATTRACTIVE 45yr old female, seeks genuine, attractive male, 38-48 for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 388550 §

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 339373 §

SINGLE MEN

IAN 5ft 10ins, 55, caring, honest, looking for sincere female with good personality, 45-55, enjoy being out, socialising, meals. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382997 §

PAUL 61, average build/looks, seeks attractive, younger lady 28-48 for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384347 §

MIKE friendly guy 48, tall, fit, GSOH, seeks lady for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376921

47YR old musician, thoughtful, tall, seeks quiet, easygoing lady, 40-47 for mellow relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384401 §

MATURE male, seeks female for kisses, cuddles and naughty indoor fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 363253

EARLY 50's male, seeks tactile female for kisses, cuddles and naughty indoor fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 351923

DANIEL 49, tall, attractive, GSOH, seeks lady for fun relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382559

ATTRACTIVE tall honest guy, 48, polite, respectful with GSOH, seeks female for fun relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 371823

MALE 45, wants pillow passenger for Triumph Tiger, rides out, base meetings and tours, are you up for it? Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384321 §

31YR old, slim, dark hair, adventurous, creative, likes music, country walks, photography, seeks likeminded female. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 352753 §

MALE 36, likes pubs, clubs, seeks female for friendship/relationship. Carol please leave your mobile number again. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 263938

ATTRACTIVE tall, professional male, GSOH, easygoing, likes sports, socialising, seeks lady with GSOH for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384331

40YR old male, likes pubs, bars, seeks female for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384325 §

DAVE 52, seeks female, 30-46 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 371541

SINGLE 60 male, many interests, strong physical needs, WLTm similar female on a regular basis. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 370321

MALE 60, strong needs, seeks similar lady for regular evening/weekend meetings. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384219 §

BRIAN male, 60, single, N/S, smart, casual, seeks lady for mutual pleasure, regular meetings. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 374487

60'S MAmale, medium build, fit, high drive, seeks lady who needs occasional male evening/weekend company. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381307

ATTRACTIVE solvent, honest gent, 57, 5ft 5ins, slim, easygoing, GSOH, OHAC, retired, seeks attractive female for fun relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384133

MALE 58, 5ft 8ins, medium build, seeks female, 50-60 to share happiness and life with. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 370649 §

63YR old male, widower, retired, looking for female of any age/status for fun relationship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 389132

BARRY slim 6ft, 66, clean, good looking, active, seeks female. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 361471 §

STOPI Steve 52, confident, seeks high needed, female for fun and adventure. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 227298

PAUL 54, tall, attractive, seeks older mature female for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382641

ATTRACTIVE black male, WLTm female for fun, adventure and good times. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383491

32YR old white male, seeks female, 18-65 for naughty daytime fun and frolics. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383781 §

ACTIVE 30yr old male, slim, dark hair, enjoys life, many interests, seeks likeminded female for friendship and more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 339975

GENUINE male, 54, own home, seeks female, any age for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368871 §

CLIVE 48, divorced, 2 children, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 389158 §

TALL grey haired, stocky businessman, likes fun, travel, seeks someone to share some enjoyable times with, including spending lots of money. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383555 §

ROY likes meals out, walks, weekends away, seeks romantic, caring, honest female for LTR. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382769 §

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KEVIN 34, 6ft 2ins, blond hair, medium build, toned, young boyish good looks likes nights out, sports, holidays, seeks similar male, any age for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 355984 §

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Meet your Doom or learn how to Quarrel

RETRO gamers will delight in the return of trend-setting shooter Doom to Xbox Live Arcade.

The 20-year-old shoot-'em-up looks and sounds its age - it's tiny hard rock soundtrack has become legend - but that's part of its charm for nostalgic gamers, alongside the chance to lay waste to hordes of monsters via an arsenal of hefty weapons.

Take it online for a fast and furious match or team up with a friend. It costs 400 Microsoft points.

Those more into brain than brawn should check out Quarrel, an addictive new game on XBLA which combines Scrabble-like wordplay with strategy.

Challenge contestants and win their territory with higher scoring words. Cute animation and sound effects add to the fun, and it will even adopt your avatar. You can take on real world opponents online. 400 Microsoft points. **LB**

Guitarist gig

FORMER Genesis guitarist Steve Hackett is at Bilston's Robin 2 venue on Saturday, February 25, as part of his Breaking Waves tour in support of his album 'Beyond The Shrouded Horizon' and single 'Til These Eyes. Call (01902) 401211 for tickets.

Musical blockbusters to banish the winter blues

THE feel-good factor will be high at two of the West Midlands' major theatres this month with the arrival of a pair of hit musicals, Sister Act and South Pacific.

None (or, indeed, nun) can deny the wide appeal of Whoopi Goldberg's Sister Act, which played to more than a million people during its run at the London Palladium, and is still a big success on Broadway.

The soulful musical about a disco diva who takes refuge in a convent after witnessing a gangland slaying features a score by multi-Oscar winning songwriter Alan Menken, the man behind Disney's best recent movie music. The story has been written by part of the team behind classic TV sitcom Cheers.

Hairdresser on the run Deloris is played by rising star Cynthia Erivo and former Coronation Street actress Denise Black plays the Mother Superior who she clashes with. Another soap star, Michael Starke, who was loveable rogue Sinbad in Brookside, will be taking holy orders to portray the Monsignor.

Sister Act opens at the Grand on Tuesday, February 7, and runs until Saturday, February 8.

Dynamic dancing

A DYNAMIC dance production comes to Wolverhampton's Arena venue tomorrow evening (Friday).

Layers Of Skin by Retina Dance Company combines the company's bold and challenging choreography with music from Belgian rock ensemble Aranis. Tickets cost £9 (concessions available). Call (01902) 321321.

There will be some enchanted evenings at Birmingham's New Alexandra from February 7 to 18 when Rodgers and Hammerstein classic South Pacific arrives after a run at London's Barbican Theatre.

Former Game On and EastEnders actress Samantha Womack will play nurse Nellie Forbush, who falls in love with a French planter, while she is serving at a US Navy base on a Polynesian island under threat of attack by Imperial Japan.

Former Phantom



Samantha Womack as Nellie Forbush in South Pacific, which will be arriving at the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham next week

Matthew Cammelle will play the Frenchman and Broadway star Loretta Ables Sayre will play the formidable 'Bloody' Mary.

The hit songs include Happy Talk, Younger Than Springtime, Bali Ha'i, I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair and, of course, There Is Nothin' Like A Dame.

It's a kind of magic ovation

One Night of Queen, Wolverhampton Grand
GARRY Mullen brought legendary Queen frontman Freddie Mercury back to life in a two-hour energy-filled One Night of Queen concert that had the audience dancing in the aisles.

A packed Grand showed their appreciation with cheers and whistles for every song.

Backed by a crack four-piece band, Mullen had an uncanny ability to connect with the audience like he's the real deal.

His voice was hampered at times by a cold but the sweat poured from him as he postured and camped it in true Mercury style. The audience gave him a standing ovation.

The entire show is summed up in the title of one of the songs, It's A Kind Of Magic.

Les Jowett

Yin and yang in perfect harmony

Chinese State Circus, Wolverhampton Civic Hall
THE talented Chinese State Circus gave their all with their Yin Yang performance at the Civic Hall in Wolverhampton, it was just a shame that there weren't a lot more people there to see it.

But those few hundred who did witness the wonderful spectacle were suitably enthusiastic and, apart from a few slip-ups, particularly in the skipping rope section, everything was very impressive.

The entertainment included human juggling, the Chinese poles, the legendary bicycle act where 12 artistes manoeuvre on a single bicycle, foot juggling with drums and the hoop divers. Another slight slip-up there but the performer got a huge cheer when on his second attempt he got it right. It makes you wonder if this is actually staged to happen.

Formidable

All this action is teamed with a captivating and atmospheric all-girl group of live musicians.

This was the UK premiere of Yin Yang, part of a 37-date theatre tour that takes them the length and breadth of the UK promoting a performance from the formidable Shaolin Warrior, known only as The One. People watched in awe he lay on a bed of nails while a concrete slab was broken on his chest. Ouch!

The show - as in the meaning of yin yang, two complementary forces in the universe, masculine and feminine - showcased the different skills of the different sexes and how well they worked together. Nowhere was this better seen than in the 'ballet' section where the girl stood on her tiptoes on the man's head as he turned around on stage.

Sue Attwater

New Smiley is Oscar worthy

SIR Alec Guinness is a hard act to follow but Gary Oldham succeeds him as spycatcher George Smiley with such sombre grace that his Oscar nomination seems justified for **Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy** (15).

Smiley is brought out of retirement to hunt a double agent at the heart of the British establishment in John le Carré's Cold War novel, previously a 1979 BBC TV series with the actor knight.

Now film director Tomas Alfredson has faithfully recreated the 1970s atmosphere in his version. This tense cerebral chess game between East and West benefits from excellent performances, not only from Oldham, but Sherlock star Benedict Cumberbatch as his young assistant, and chief suspects Toby Young and Colin Firth.

Tinker Tailor is now available on DVD, Blu-ray and for download.

Leon Burakowski

Fancy fret work

Rodrigo y Gabriela and Cuba - Area 52

THE Mexican guitar duo add to their frenetic fancy fret work - as much influenced by heavy metal as flamenco - with the brass and percussion of a 13-piece Hispanic big band on their latest album.

Anoushka Shankar lends her sitar to one track, as one of several guests. Despite passion, there is a tendency towards pleasant noodling jazz rock. **LB**

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Saturday TV

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Choice

BBC1

BBC2

ITV1

Channel 4

Channel 5

Digital



MRS BROWN'S BOYS

BBC1, 9.30pm

In mid-January, Mrs Brown's Boys was tenth highest rated BBC One show of the week, with more than six million viewers tuning in – that doesn't include all the extra viewers who caught it on iPlayer. Does it deserve such high viewing figures? Well, that's open to question, but if the sight of laterday Old Mother Riley Brendan O'Carroll in drag tickles your funnybone, then you won't want to miss this final helping in which Agnes tries to make friends with Dermot's mother-in-law Hillary ahead of the baby's birth. She suggests they go out to dinner together, but the evening comes to an abrupt end for the two feuding matriarchs.

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.35** Rachel Allen: Home Cooking. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** World Olympic Dreams. Mongolian boxer Badar Uugan Enkhbatyn's preparations for London. **1.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. France v Italy (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Scotland v England (Kick-off 5.00pm).

6.55 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

7.15 The Magicians. With John Torode, Gregg Wallace, Arlene Phillips and Phil Tufnell.

8.30 The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws. The Overtone's join OJ Borg as the winning numbers are revealed.

8.40 Casualty. Linda struggles to take care of her sister's two children, and Lloyd tries to piece together the series of events that led to a woman with Alzheimer's disease being admitted.

9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes tries to make friends with Dermot's mother-in-law Hillary, but the pair's dinner date comes to an abrupt end when Maria suddenly goes into labour. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News; Weather.

10.20 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Manchester City v Fulham; National Lottery Update.

11.40 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games.

1.00 Weatherview. **1.05** BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.00** Coast. (R) **12.15** Film: Miracle. (2004) Fact-based sporting drama, starring Kurt Russell. **2.20** Film: Flower Drum Song. (1961) Romantic musical comedy, with Miyoshi Umeki and James Shigeta. **4.30** Final Score. **5.30** Escape to the Country. (R)

6.30 Flog It! Philip Serrell and David Fletcher visit Torquay, where they value antiques including an amber necklace, an Austrian bronze figure and a cheese coaster.

7.30 Dad's Army. The platoon defends headquarters against members of the Highland Regiment. (R)

8.00 Versailles: The Dream of a King. Docu-drama re-creating the life and loves of Louis XIV. (R)

9.00 FILM: Brighton Rock. (2010) Premiere. A criminal in the 1960s tries to seduce a waitress who can connect him to a murder, determined to ensure her silence. Drama, starring Sam Riley and Andrea Riseborough.

10.45 Pan Am. The Clipper Majestic is sent to the Soviet Union on a diplomatic mission.

11.25 TOP2: The 60s. Performances by Clodagh Rodgers, the Move, Tom Jones and the Bee Gees.

11.55 FILM: The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada. (2005) Modern-day Western, starring Tommy Lee Jones.

1.50 Film: Paper Clips. (2004) Documentary about a school's commemoration of the Holocaust.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** May the Best House Win. (R) **11.25** This Morning: Saturday. **12.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.40** Film: Evil Under the Sun. (1982) Mystery, starring Peter Ustinov. **3.55** Film: Wild Wild West. (1999) Sci-fi Western comedy, starring Will Smith. **5.45** Regional News; Weather.

6.00 ITV News; Weather. **6.15** New You've Been Framed – Top 100 Kids! Comedian Harry Hill narrates a selection of viewer-submitted comical clips devoted to youngsters, including messy eaters.

7.15 Harry Hill's TV Burp. New series. Comic review of the week's small-screen highlights.

7.45 Take Me Out. A charity campaigner, a semi-professional footballer, a musician and a model try to impress 30 single women, and last week's couples go on their dates.

9.00 The Jonathan Ross Show. With David Beckham, Keira Knightley and Kevin Bridges.

10.00 The Talent Show Story. Life on the judging panel. Last in the series.

11.00 ITV News; Weather. **11.15** FILM: Music and Lyrics. (2007) Comedy, starring Hugh Grant and Drew Barrymore.

1.10 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **3.30** In Plain Sight. **4.15** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Volleyball. (R) **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.50** T4: Everyone's Talking About – Top Ten. **9.20** T4: A-Z of Star Wars Episode I: T4 Movie Special. **9.55** T4: New Girl. (R) **10.25** T4: New Girl. (R) **10.55** T4: Playing It Straight. **11.55** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** T4: New Girl. (R) **12.55** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.35** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.05 Come Dine with Me. January Jones-Omatayo prepares a soul-food-inspired menu. (R)

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.05 4thought.tv. A Sikh charity worker explains his view of altruism.

7.10 FILM: My Super Ex-Girlfriend. (2006) An insecure superhero is outraged when her boyfriend dumps her, and in revenge uses her powers to ruin his life. Fantasy comedy, starring Uma Thurman, Luke Wilson and Eddie Izzard.

9.00 The Million Pound Drop Live. Davina McCall presents the quiz show in which contestants can win £1million, but lose money for giving incorrect answers.

10.30 FILM: The Full Monty. (1997) Comedy, starring Robert Carlyle.

12.20 Film: If. (1968) Drama, with Malcolm McDowell. **2.15** The Silent City. (R) **2.25** This Is J03. (R) **2.30** Brothers & Sisters. (R) **3.15** My Dream Farm. (R) **4.10** Time Team. (R) **5.10** Countdown. (R) **5.55** Sali Mail. (R)

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Meerkat Manor. (R) **10.30** Benidorm ER. (R) **11.30** Royal Navy Caribbean Patrol. (R) **12.25** Film: Riding Shotgun. (1954) Western, starring Randolph Scott. **2.00** Film: Apache Drums. (1951) Western, starring Stephen McNally. **3.30** Film: Death of a Gunfighter. (1969) Western, starring Richard Widmark. **5.25** Film: Private Benjamin. (1980) Comedy, starring Goldie Hawn.

7.25 5 News Weekend. **7.35** NCIS. Having identified the mole in their ranks, the detectives are forced to rely on information from questionable sources as they try to prevent a criminal stealing government secrets. (R)

8.30 NCIS. A petty officer is killed in what at first seems to be a road-rage incident – until the team discovers he belonged to an underground fight club. Crime drama, starring Mark Harmon. (R)

9.30 CSI: NY. Mac and the team investigate the murder of a college student, focusing their investigation on his room-mate, who has been printing counterfeit money.

10.30 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A teenager disappears after making a shocking confession.

11.30 Forensic Files. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **4.00** Great Artists. (R) **4.25** Divine Designs. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

ITV2 **4.50** Film: Free Willy (1993) **7.10** Film: Kangaroo Jack (2003). Comedy, starring Jerry O'Connell and Anthony Anderson. **9.00** Take Me Out – The Gossip **9.45** Film: Knocked Out (2007). Romantic comedy, starring Seth Rogen, Katherine Heigl and Paul Rudd.

ITV3 **3.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot **4.55** A Touch of Frost **7.00** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Film: The Postman Always Rings Twice (1981)

ITV4 **3.40** Film: On Her Majesty's Secret Service (1969) **6.30** Live Africa Cup of Nations. The second quarter-final (Kick-off 7.00pm). **9.30** Film: Tango & Cash (1989). Action adventure, with Sylvester Stallone and Kurt Russell. **11.35** Film: Charley Varick (1973)

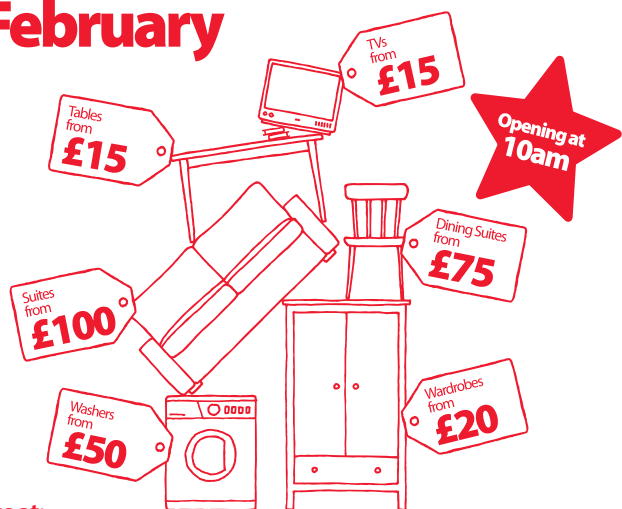
BBC THREE **7.00** Doctor Who **7.45** Doctor Who Confidential (1969) **8.30** Live Africa Cup of Nations. The second quarter-final (Kick-off 7.00pm). **9.30** Film: Tango & Cash (1989). Action adventure, with Sylvester Stallone and Kurt Russell. **11.35** Film: Charley Varick (1973)

BBC FOUR **7.00** Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **8.00** Natural World: The Last Grizzly of Paradise Valley **9.00** Borgen **11.00** Top of the Pops: 1977 **11.35** Soul Deep: The Story of Black Popular Music

E4 **1.35** Hollyoaks **4.10** Perfect Couples **5.05** Scrubs **7.35** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** Rules of Engagement **8.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Trading Places (1983). Comedy, starring Dan Aykroyd and Eddie Murphy. **11.20** The Big Bang Theory

FILM4 **2.45** Battle for the Planet of the Apes (1973) **4.30** Tristan and Isolde (2006) **6.55** Guess Who (2005) **9.00** The Wrestler (2008). Drama, with Mickey Rourke and Marisa Tomei. **11.20** A History of Violence (2005)

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Choice

BBC1

BBC2

ITV1

Channel 4

Channel 5

Digital



THE HOTEL

Channel 4, 8pm

Admittedly, it can't be easy running a hotel; having the ability to keep everybody happy all the time and doing it through those stubbornly gritted teeth with a pseudo-friendly grin plastered across your face. But if Basil Fawcett can do it, Mark Jenkins is going to make damn sure he can. The Grosvenor's manager has had somewhat of a brainwave this week, as he decides to open the hotel's nightclub. Where his germ of an idea falls down, though, is when Christian gets giddy about his 'perfect solution' of the club's theme being 'omni-sexual' — even offering to go out in full-drag get-up complete with semi-naked men by way of promoting his idea.

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.05** Match of the Day Live. **2.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Antiques Roadshow. (R)

6.35 BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

7.00 **Countryfile**. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison explore the Blackdown Hills on the Devon and Somerset border, while John Craven investigates Britain's fall in organic food sales. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 **Call the Midwife**. A baby girl is snatched from her pram, uniting the community in a search for the missing child. Cynthia's latest patient falls ill, jeopardising her chances of happiness.

9.00 **Bomber Boys**. Actor Ewan McGregor and his pilot brother Colin explore the role RAF Bomber Command played during the Second World War and Colin learns to fly a Lancaster bomber.

10.30 BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

10.55 **Live Super Bowl XLVI**. New England Patriots v New York Giants (Kick-off 11.25pm). Mark Chapman presents coverage of American football's showpiece match, held at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

4.00 Weatherview. **4.05** BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Something for the Weekend. **11.30** Film: I Know Where I'm Going. (1945) Romantic drama, starring Wendy Hiller and Roger Livesey. **1.00** EastEnders. **2.55** Film: The Shooting Party. (1985) Period drama, starring Edward Fox. **4.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.15** Ski Sunday.

6.00 **The Last Explorers**. The story of John Muir, one of the founders of America's National Park movement, who worked to persuade institutions and the general public of the importance of the environment.

7.00 **Queens of British Pop**. A celebration of female singers over the past 50 years. (R)

8.00 **Top Gear**. Jeremy Clarkson and James May learn about China's expanding car industry, and Richard Hammond immerses himself in the world of Nascar at a race in Texas. With guest Matt LeBlanc.

9.00 **Toughest Place to Be a Fisherman**. Cornish fisherman Andy Giles works in a coastal village in Sierra Leone.

10.00 **Match of the Day 2**. Including highlights of Chelsea v Manchester United.

10.55 **Frank Skinner's Opinionated**. With Greg Davies and Victoria Coren. (R)

11.25 **Rugby Union: Six Nations Highlights**.

12.10 Ski Sunday. (R) **12.55** Film: The Day of the Triffids. (1962) Sci-fi thriller, starring Howard Keel. **2.30** BBC News. **4.05** Close.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Ade in Britain. (R) **10.30** Dinner Date. (R) **11.30** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **12.30** TV News: Weather. **12.40** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.40** Film: Columbo: Murder, Smoke and Shadows. (1989) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.35** Vera. (R) **5.35** Regional News; Weather. **5.45** ITV News: Weather.

6.00 **Harry Hill's TV Burp**. Comic review of the week's small-screen highlights. (R)

6.25 **Dancing on Ice**. The 11 remaining celebrities skate to some of the biggest pop songs of all time as they continue their battle to impress the judges and win public votes.

8.30 **Wild at Heart**. Du Plessis starts to believe he is being haunted by the ghost of Peeters. Danny and Ed make a rash decision that endangers everything they have been working toward.

9.30 **Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off**. The two lowest-scoring couples compete.

10.05 **That Sunday Night Show**. With Larry Lamb and Ross Noble.

10.35 **ITV News: Weather**.

10.50 **Whitechapel**. Chandler and Miles investigate the deaths of four people. (R)

11.50 **Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union**. Action from the fourth round of pool fixtures.

12.40 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.00** Ladette to Lady: Australia. (R) **2.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** That Paralympic Show. (R) **7.25** Sailing: America's Cup Uncovered. (R) **7.55** T4: The Album Chart Show Introduces Cover Drive. (R) **8.05** T4: One Tree Hill. (R) **8.55** T4: Countdown to the NME Awards 2012. (R) **9.10** T4: Hollyoaks. (R) **11.45** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.20** T4: Shipwrecked: The Island. **1.20** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** Film: New in Town. (2009) Premiere. Romantic comedy, starring Renee Zellweger. **4.20** Time Team. **5.25** Deal or No Deal.

6.25 **Channel 4 News**. **6.55** **4thought**. Human rights activist Ben Rawlence discusses foreign aid.

7.00 **Hugh's Three Hungry Boys**. The boys hunt for food on Asparagus Island off Cornwall's Kynance Cove. Last in the series.

8.00 **The Hotel**. Manager Mark holds a singles' night.

9.00 **FILM: The Time Traveler's Wife**. (2009) Premiere. A woman falls for a time traveller, but his journeys back and forth in her life put a strain on their marriage. Romantic sci-fi drama, with Rachel McAdams and Eric Bana.

11.10 **FILM: Alien Resurrection**. (1997) Sci-fi thriller sequel, with Sigourney Weaver.

1.15 Film: The Texas Chainsaw Massacre. (2003) Horror remake, starring Jessica Biel. **2.55** The Guides. (R) **3.10** Brothers & Sisters. (R) **3.50** 90210. (R) **4.30** My Dream Farm. (R) **5.25** Countdown. (R)

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.35** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Igm Ogam. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Family! (R) **7.35** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.50** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.57** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.15** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.30** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.50** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Mist: Sheepdog Tales. (R) **10.00** Grey's Anatomy. (R) **11.00** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.05** Film: Shanghai Noon. (2000) Comedy Western, starring Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson. **3.10** Film: Pete's Dragon. (1977) Musical fantasy, starring Jim Dale. **5.20** Film: The Mask of Zorro. (1998) Swashbuckling adventure, starring Antonio Banderas.

8.00 **World's Scariest Near Misses**. People who have stared death in the face — and survived. (R)

8.55 **5 News Weekend**.

9.00 **FILM: 300**. (2006) Fantasy adventure, starring Gerard Butler.

11.20 **FILM: Road House 2: Last Call**. (2006) Action thriller sequel, starring Johnathon Schaech.

1.00 SuperCasino. **4.00** Rough Guide to Beaches. (R) **4.10** Great Scientists. (R) **4.35** Divine Designs. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

ITV2
4.25 Film: Free Willy 2: The Adventure Home (1995) **6.25** Film: King Kong (2005). Fantasy adventure remake, starring Naomi Watts. **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex. **10.45** Film: Funny People (2009). Comedy drama, starring Adam Sandler and Seth Rogen.

ITV3
3.50 Film: Carry On Screaming (1966) **5.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot. **9.00** Lewis. A college master is found dead at the university's astronomical observatory. **11.00** Cracker

ITV4
3.20 Film: Stargate (1994) **5.45** Film: Flash Gordon (1980) **8.00** Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union **9.00** Cops with Cameras **10.00** Africa Cup of Nations **11.00** Film: We Own the Night (2007). Drama, starring Joaquin Phoenix.

BBC THREE
7.00 Junior Doctors: Your Life in Their Hands **8.00** Young Tailor of the Year **9.00** Being Human **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.30** Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents

BBC FOUR
7.00 Sykes **7.30** Film: Carry On Loving (1970). Comedy, starring Sid James. **9.00** The Cricklewood Greats **9.45** Hattie **11.10** Film: Son of Babylon (2009). Premiere. Drama, starring Shazada Hussein and Yasser Talib.

E4
4.30 Samantha Who? **4.55** Being Erica **5.55** 90210 **6.50** Film: Romancing the Stone (1984). Comedy adventure, starring Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner. **9.00** Desperate Housewives **11.00** Skins

FILM4
3.00 In Good Company (2004) **5.10** The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill, But Came Down a Mountain (1995) **7.00** Eragon (2006). Fantasy adventure, starring Edward Speleers. **9.00** Pan's Labyrinth (2006). Period fantasy, starring Ivana Baquero. **11.20** Babel (2006). Drama, starring Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett.

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14, 15, 17 - 22 SEP MICHAEL MCINTYRE THE NIA	11 - 13 OCT JOHN BISHOP THE NIA	4 - 8 SEP MRS BROWN RIDES AGAIN THE NIA
6 DEC PETER ANDRE THE NIA	29 MAR - 1 APR THE NATIONAL HOMEIMPROVING & RENOVATING SHOW THE NEC	10 NOV ANDREA BOCELLI LG ARENA
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Monday

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 Live with Gabby. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Build New Life in the Country. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Sci-Fi: NY. (R) 3.15 Film: Safe. 8.00pm 5 News. 8.30pm 5 News. 9.00pm 5 News. Williams, Nancy Travis, (R) Kelly McClelland and Myra Turley. 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 5 News at 6.30. Zed's World's Toughest Trucker. (R) 5 News Update. 7.00pm 5 News. 7.30pm 5 News. 8.00pm 5 News. Marines: Mission Afghanistan. 10.00 Film: The Detonator. (2006) Thriller, starring Wesley Snipes, Silvia Colloca, Tim Dutton and William Hope. 11.55 John Blues. (R) 12.55 SuperCasino. 4.00 House Doctor. 5.00 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.10 Michaela Wild Challenge. (R)

Tuesday

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 Live with Gabby. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Build a New Life in the Country. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. (R) 1.45 Update. (R) 2.15 The Fairfield Road. (2010) Drama starring Jesse Metcalfe and Natalie Lisinska. 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 5 News at 6.30. 7.00 Police Interceptors. (R) 7.30 Update. (R) 8.00 Cowboys Builders. 5 News at 9. 9.00 Body of Proof. Megan investigates a fatality at the hospital where she used to work. 10.00 CSI: Miami. A gunman starts the team's headquarters. (R) 10.55 CSI: NY. (R) 11.50 CSI: NY. (R) 12.45 CSI: NY. (R) 1.15 CSI: NY. (R) 1.45 CSI: NY. (R) 2.15 Doctor. (R) 4.25 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.10 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R)

Wednesday

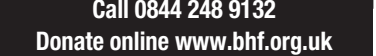
Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 Live with Gaby. 12.10 5 News. 1.30 The New Life in the Country. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 CSI: NY. (R) 3.15 Film: Crimes of Passion. (2005) Detective thriller, starring Dina Meyer. 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 5 News at 6. 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 5 News at 6.30. 7.00 Cowboy Builders. (R) 5 News Update. 8.00 Benidorm. (R) 5 News at 9. 9.00 NCIS. 10.00 Law & Order: Criminal Intent. 11.00 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R) 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.00 5 News. 12.40 House Doctor. (R) 4.15 Wildlife SOS. (R) 4.50 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R)

Thursday

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake, 9.15 The Wright Stuff, 11.10 Live with Gabby, 12.10 5 News Lunchtime, 12.15 Build Up, New Life in the Country, (R) 1.15 Home and Away, 2.15 The Bill, 3.00 The Bill, 3.30 The Bill, 4.00 Murder Among Friends, (2001) Detective thriller, starring Greg Evigan, 5.00 5 News at 5, 5.30 Neighbours, (R) 6.00 Home and Away, (R) 6.30 5 News at 6, 7.00 5 News at 7, 7.30 5 News at 7.30, 8.00 How Do They Do It?, (R) 5 News Update, 8.00 Bermuda Triangle: The Mystery Revealed?, (R) 5 News at 9, 9.00 Winter Road Rescue, 10.00 Film: The Bill, 10.30 The Bill, 11.00 The Bill, 11.30 Harry pursues a woman taking revenge on the men who raped her, Crime thriller sequel, directed by and starring Clive Eastwood, 12.25 The Bill, 1.00 The Bill, 1.30 The Bill, 2.00 SOS, (R) 5.00 Michaela's Wild Challenge, (R)

Friday

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with Gabby. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Build Up New Life in the Country. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 CSI: NY. (R) 3.15 Film: Dead Lines. (2010) Thriller, starring Jiri Ryan. 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 5 News at 6.30. 7.00 Royal Navy Canine Patrol. (R) 5 News Update. 8.00 World's Toughest Truckee; 5 News at 9. 9.00 Film: The Last Samurai. (2003) Historical adventure, starring Tom Cruise and Ken Watanabe. 11.55 News. 12.00 Update. 12.10 SuperCasino. 5.15 Motorsport Mundial. 4.20 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.10 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R)

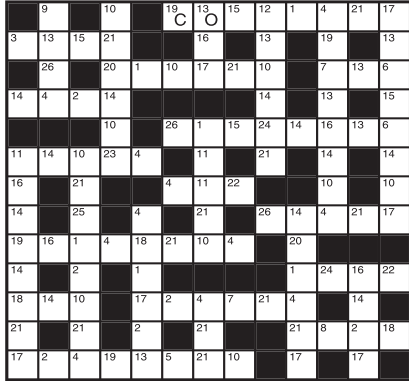


Brain Gym

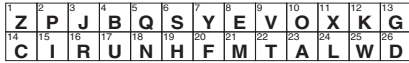
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

3. Almost begin to embark - that's right (9)
8. Give a hand signal when this approach - the shore (4)
9. Learning to recognise a foothold on the mountain (9)
10. A kind that is made to sally (6)
11. One who sums up the scaly creature (5)
14. Change the level of the shafts, we hear (5)
15. Depression for the theologian, by the sound of it (4)
16. Just the thing for the high-stepper (5)
18. Cramped accommodation may well be barred (4)
20. Too early for the Mayflower? (5)
21. It would be carried by the chairmen (5)
24. Show off the United Nations in uninteresting surroundings (6)
25. Split completely in a sorrowful way (9)
26. Small piece of land mentioned in Marco Polo's letters (4)
27. One who faces the wall (9)

Quick Clues:

Across

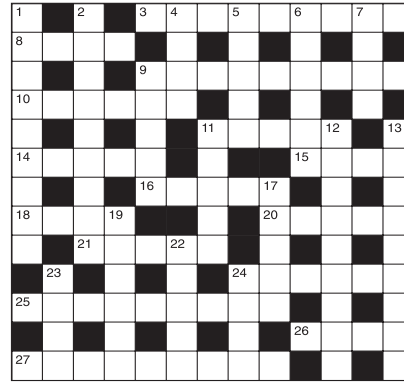
3. Escort (9)
8. Merit (4)
9. Monarch (9)
10. Stress (6)
11. Lift (5)
14. Bisect (5)
15. Level (4)
16. Harvests (5)
18. Not any (4)
20. Trunk (5)
21. Late (5)
24. Charcoal (6)
25. Incessant (9)
26. Brink (4)
27. Recovers (9)

Down

1. Frightened by an undefined article, we refused to work (3-6)
2. Charges too much? (9)
4. Subtle blending provides quality of sound (4)
5. Went boating and fell out! (5)
6. What the abbot expects to be, as far as holy orders are concerned! (6)
7. Right time of life for passion (4)
9. Birds whose flight is ground-controlled? (5)
11. Though born elsewhere, he produces a legal right to retention of property (5)
12. Turned up in a nosy way (9)
13. Facts that place genuine restrictions about one (9)
17. Agree with the amount scored (5)
19. Acquires 9 Across (6)
22. Ill-treatment for Lincoln around America (5)
23. Timber transaction (4)
24. Escape from most of the Navy (4)

Down

1. Loud hailer (9)
2. Ferocious (9)
4. Diving bird (4)
5. Musical drama (5)
6. Delight (6)
7. Near (4)
9. Derivative smile (5)
11. Willing (5)
12. All (9)
13. Meet (9)
17. Purloin (5)
19. Christian festival (6)
22. Thick (5)
23. Belt (4)
24. Tend (4)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Sock; 3 Herdsman; 8 Rank; 9 Hostages; 11 Keeping watch; 13 Notice; 14 Stupor; 17 Strawberries; 20 Headgear; 21 Tale; 22 Paladins; 23 Lent. Down: 1 Striking; 2 Contest; 4 Enough; 5 Detractors; 6 Magic; 7 Nose; 10 Discharged; 12 Crescent; 15 Private; 16 Obtain; 18 Trail; 19 Whip. QUICK - Across: 1 Pick; 3 Advocate; 8 Same; 9 Flatness; 11 Illegitimate; 13 Luxury; 14 Escape; 17 Presentiment; 20 Original; 21 Fame; 22 Preceded; 23 News. Down: 1 Possibly; 2 Complex; 4 Delete; 5 Optimistic; 6 Alert; 7 Easy; 10 Aggressive; 12 Restless; 15 Average; 16 Insane; 18 Raise; 19 Pomp.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

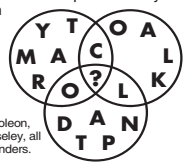


Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

The letter represented by the question mark is L. Napoleon, Cromwell, Wolsey, all military commanders.



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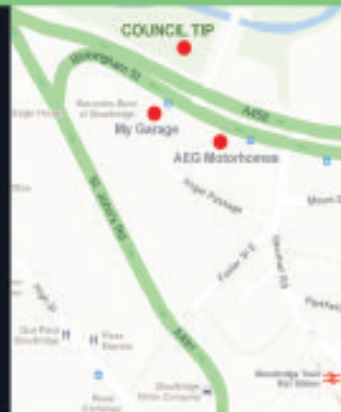
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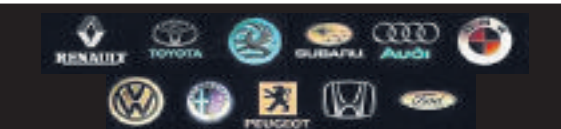
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SPORT

thechronicle

Hancock returns to meet the Heathens' supporters

HEATHENS speedway fans will be flocking to Dudley to welcome back old favourite Greg Hancock.

The reigning world speedway champion won his second crown 14 years after claiming his first and promised a return to his professional roots.

The former Cradley ace made nearly 400 appearances for the old Cradley club and notched more than 4,000 points before their demise.

The 41-year-old, who now lives in Sweden, will take the stage and meet supporters at The Venue Conference and Banqueting Centre, High Street, Dudley on March 17.

He will be joined by a number of former Cradley riders including former world champion and newly-named Heathens coach Jan O Pedersen and Colin Pratt.

Busy

Hancock said: "I know what the Heathens name means to the people and they are just so passionate about their team."

"The Cradley days were special to me and to so many people."

"It will be nice to come back to England and to see my fans once again."

Heathens chairman Nigel Pearson said: "Greg is a very busy man these days and seldom gets a chance to come to the UK."

"It will be a very rare appearance for him back where it all started close to the old Dudley Wood," he added.

Tickets cost £10 and are still available at www.dudleyheathens.co or by cheque to HSSC, 2 Caernarvon Way, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 2TR.

More details: 07766 745681.

Hancock will also be in Cradley Heath itself on the afternoon of the event between noon and 2pm.

He will officially open a new facility at Motor Market on Newtown Lane.

Meanwhile, the Heathens will defend their National League Shield against Knockout Cup winners Mildenhall early in the season.

The Fen Tigers are expected to provide tough opposition.

In the cup, Dudley have been drawn against great rivals Buxton in the first round for 2012.

Leaders send hosts to bottom of table

Seconds cannot hold on to lead

TOP of the table Stourport ladies firsts XI sent their hosts, Aldridge and Walsall ladies, to the bottom of hockey's Midland Premier League with a five-goal second-half blitz.

Stourport meant business from the first whistle, implementing a new formation to great effect in the opening minutes.

Georgi Burns down the left was successful in dribbling through the home defence and her passes to the baseline piled on the pressure.

Some fine crosses from Jodi Vincent were also creating panic in the Aldridge defence, although

Stourport's forwards were unable initially to convert their chances due to some excellent reaction saves by the home keeper.

Sade Gerald, Lora Symonds, and Pippa Lewis all went close.

But with the frustration mounting the visitors finally managed to break the deadlock when Lewis converted a penalty flick. Gerald added a second goal before the break.

In the second half Stourport went on a goal frenzy. Rene Johnson teased her way down the left and linked with Vincent to set

Aldridge & Walsall 0 Stourport 7

up Stourport's player of the match Lewis for a thunderous shot into the bottom corner past the stunned Aldridge keeper.

Not long afterwards Jade Marshall-Walker made it four when Sarah Cavendish switched play effectively to Lewis on the right who crossed for Marshall-Walker to coolly put a reverse stick hit past the on-looking keeper.

Vincent was rewarded for her

hard work when she added a fifth Stourport goal, calmly flicking a rebound over the grounded keeper. Her second and the visitors' sixth, was a fine strike on the far post from a well-worked team effort, which began with Harriet Burns and Katie Miller weaving down the right, and linking with Lewis whose strike across the D found Vincent to score.

Lewis rounded off her fine performance with a third goal when Johnson opened up the home defence with her skills down the left.

She passed the ball to Vincent who combined with Symonds to slip the ball to Lewis, who fired home her hat-trick from the top of the D.

The goal rounded off an excellent victory for Stourport on their return to league action following the festive break.

The firsts remain unbeaten at the top of the Midland Premier.

But they remain only one point clear of second-placed Matlock Baileans and have a tough home clash with third-placed Beeston on Saturday (11.30am).

KCs dominant but see victory snatched away

THIS was a case of what might have been as KCs lost a game they could, and probably should have won after dominating territorially for most of the match. They looked sharp from the off and early pressure brought a try in just three minutes.

An incisive run by centre Nick Martin punched a hole in the visitors' defence and his long pass to Rich Sollum enabled the winger to squeeze over in the left corner, writes Martin Easton. Sils reduced the arrears to 5-3 after 12 minutes with a 25m penalty knocked over by their No 9 but KCs continued to have the upper hand with Martin and Tom Maher looking lively and fly-half Andy McLellan's kicking keeping the visitors on the back foot.

Their lineup was a problem as they persisted in directing the ball to the middle of the line where Sils' No 8 picked off nearly every throw.

Sils had not been in the game as an attacking force but on 25 minutes they threatened to break away until their winger was cut down by a magnificent covering tackle by Maher.

Disrupt

Sils' No 11 had, in fact, put a foot into touch but the flanker was not to know that and went on to give a man of the match performance.

A good take and penetrating run by McLellan set up good field position for KCs and this time they had something to show for it, disrupting a Sils' scrum to win a penalty, which McLellan converted for an 8-3 lead.

For the last 10 minutes of the half KCs had to withstand the visitors' first period of sustained pressure, including a series of close-range scrums, but their defence held firm.

They did have a let-off when Sils' centre dropped the ball in the goal area.

Kidderminster Carolians 11 Silhillians 15

After the restart KCs were soon back on top, following up another long McLellan kick to win a scrum at which they were awarded a penalty.

But the chance was missed, as was a drop goal attempt soon after.

Kidder's forwards kept pounding away and stole a Sils' lineup on the 22m to set up a penalty, which McLellan knocked over for 11-3.

Sils then ran the ball from a lineup on halfway and some unconvincing Carolians tackling allowed their left-wing to cross for a converted try. The visitors' No 11 was now becoming a thorn in KC's side and after being bundled into touch just short of the line he finished off some good Sils' phases to put them in front for the first time with his second try.

With only 10 minutes remaining KCs fought to rescue the match.

But Sils, knowing their

opponents needed a try, were happy to concede penalties if necessary.

Right on the whistle KCs had one last chance when the forwards ran a penalty deep in Sils' 22m but were penalised for going off their feet at the ensuing ruck.

Sils took the four league points while their hosts had to console themselves with a losing bonus point.

Kidderminster Carolians Under-16s secured a 39-16 home win against Ledbury recently. Dan Cooper scored two tries from Mitchell Dwyers, Liam Harrison, Tom Phipps, Tom Mayall and David Bisset, who also kicked two conversions.

They followed up last weekend with a 25-13 defeat at Cheltenham. A hard-fought game against good opposition saw Kidderminster rally strongly after trailing 18-3 at the break. Henry Cook scored a try, which was converted by Bisset, who also landed two penalties.

Hole-in-one happiness for David



Kidderminster Golf club member David Randle has hit a hole in one - at the age of 69. David has been playing golf for 40 years, 30 of them with Kidderminster. He achieved his lifetime's ambition on the 75-yard par three fifth, using an eight iron. He now looks forward to his next ace - but hopes he will not have to wait as long.

Shrewsbury 4 Stourport 2

STOURPORT ladies hockey seconds took an early lead but could not hold on at Shrewsbury.

They made the perfect start, going ahead in the opening five minutes through Fran Moss.

But by half-time it was 2-2 despite Bethan Merriman also scoring for the visitors.

In the second half, despite a good team performance and a fine show from the visitors' player of the match Gill Moss, Stourport conceded two more goals.

Stourport 3 Worcester 9

The thirds were swamped in the second half after being all square at 3-3 after the first period.

Stourport took the lead through Alison Baron after she converted a Karen McIntyre pass. The visitors levelled but two goals from Abbie Yapp saw the home side take a 3-1 advantage.

However, Worcester equalised before the break and a further six goals flew in during the second half.

Kidderminster 4 Stourport 0

Stourport ladies fourths didn't have far to go for their first Worcestershire Second Division match since the Christmas break when they faced Kidderminster at the King Charles pitches.

Unfortunately for the Stourport side it wasn't a happy trip.

The visitors found themselves 1-0 down at the half-time break.

In the second half Stourport came back with both Pauline Knott and Katie Knott creating opportunities.

However, it was Kidderminster who scored next as they extended their lead to 2-0 before Stourport's injured captain Amelia Baker had to leave the pitch.

Kidderminster took full advantage of the fact that Stourport had no substitutes and added a further two goals before the final whistle.

Stourport 0 Old Sils 4

Two goals both before and after the break meant defeat for the fifthers.

The visitors began the match the sharper and as in the previous week Stourport found themselves defending in numbers.

Stourport held firm and mounted attacks of their own. However, Old Sils that took the lead midway through the half and added a second before the interval.

Two further goals in the final 10 minutes completed the scoring.

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Hole in one for
David, age 69
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KCs so close
Narrow defeat for
frustrated Carolians
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One point dampens dream of promotion

Banbury 4 Stourbridge 1
ONE point from three games meant a bad week for Stourbridge's hopes of promotion from the Evo-Stik Southern Premier.

For the third match running Stourbridge conceded an early goal, falling behind after five minutes as Danny Edmond turned smartly on the edge of the Glassboys box and his low shot squeezed inside Lewis Solly's right-hand post.

The visitors worked themselves back into the match to equalise after 25 minutes but Sam Rock scored the next off a rebound.

Seven minutes before the interval though Banbury regained the lead as Johnson ran on to a half clearance to smack a crisp volley from 20 yards beyond Solly. The Glassboys were first to threaten after the break but two minutes later Banbury struck again.

Tommy Kinch did well to hook over a cross from the left towards the far post and although Solly produced a good reaction save to deny Edmond, he could only parry the ball upwards and Josh Blake followed up to head home.

In stoppage time Banbury put the result beyond doubt as Johnson pounced to crash home his second goal and leave the Glassboys with some soul-searching to do.

Green gets the late equaliser

Gornal Ath 1 Wellington 1
GORNAL lost ground on leaders Black Country Rangers after this West Midlands Premier home draw.

Both teams were happy to take a point from a game that lacked any real quality in possession or in front of goal.

Gornal dominated a scoreless first half but could not break down a well-organised Wellington defence.

Equally, Wellington started the second half brightly but could not find a breakthrough.

Gornal then got themselves back into the game but conceded on 70 minutes against the run of play.

A long ball over the top of the Gornal defence was chased down by Matt Williams, who shot over the stranded John Pemberton.

But with eight minutes remaining Kristian Green headed the equaliser.

Hopes hit as Hatters head for victory

KIDDERMINSTER'S Blue Square Bet Premier promotion hopes took a knock as they slipped to defeat at struggling Stockport on Saturday.

Harriers trailed 2-0 before Nick Wright's deflected shot gave them a lifeline. Despite piling on the pressure, the home defence refused to buckle, leaving manager Steve Burr to rue missed opportunities.

"I thought we did particularly well, we just didn't finish moves off," said Burr.

"I don't like to be disrespectful to Stockport because they won the game, and fair play to them, but in the first half they have

Stockport 2 Kidderminster 1

had the one effort on goal and scored. We played some great football in and around the box and we just didn't finish it off. It is about putting the ball in the back of the net and we just didn't do that."

Harriers had a good chance in the very first minute; dreadful home defending allowed Lee Hendrie time and space to shoot from 20 yards but Ian Ormson dived to his right to parry the effort away.

The home defence looked ill at ease but Harriers could not capitalise and paid a

heavy penalty on 22 minutes. Ormson's long clearance was flicked on by Tom Elliott and Sean McConville drilled a 20-yard effort into the bottom right-hand corner of Tony Breeden's goal.

Harriers responded and Callum Gittings forced a save from Ormson before Luke Jones directed his far-post header narrowly wide.

Kidderminster were dealt another blow when full-back Tom Sharpe was stretched off with a serious knee injury.

At half-time Burr introduced Anthony Malbon who immediately won a corner from

which Gittings headed wide. On 54 minutes, the Hatters extended their lead when Danny Rowe surged forward and hit a drive that squeezed between Breeden and his right-hand post.

Harriers replied almost instantly, Lee Hendrie finding Wright to reduce the arrears.

Stockport County: Ormson, Halls, Holden, O'Donnell, Piergianni, Turnbull, Connor, Mainwaring (Nolan 71), McConville (Cole 88), DL Rowe, Elliott (Gritton 56). **Subs not used:** Glennon (gk), DM Rowe.

Kidderminster Harriers: Breeden, Sharpe (Harkin 34), Demetriou, Jones, Williams, Bradley (Malbon 48), Hendrie, Storer, Gittings, Wright (McQuilkin 71), Matt. **Subs not used:** Lyness (gk), Guinan. Attendance: 3,728

Anxious wait for Harriers' Sharpe

KIDDERMINSTER Harriers facing an anxious wait on defender Tom Sharpe as they weigh up the best course of action with the injury victim.

Sharpe went off after 34 minutes of the 2-1 defeat at Stockport on Saturday, with fears that the 23-year-old has suffered a cruciate ligament injury.

The club are considering sending him for a scan but Sharpe is able to walk unaided and has reported to Aggborough for medical treatment.

The centre-back is, at best, expected to spend several weeks on the sidelines and could even miss the rest of the season for a second time.

A dislocated knee ended his campaign last year but it's the other knee, the right, that has been damaged this time.

Influence

Meanwhile, Burr has hailed former Villa and England midfielder Lee Hendrie for his "no airs and graces" influence on the team.

Hendrie has made 10 starts for Harriers and was a threat at Stockport, going close twice and setting up the goal for Nick Wright.

The 34-year-old is playing in the Blue Square Premier for the first time and Burr has been delighted with his impact.

He said: "Lee has been great for us and has brought into the club everything we were looking for."

"His experience is key and the way he has fitted in with the lads has been great."

"He gets around the younger lads and just gives them that bit of encouragement and help."

"The lads here have a lot of respect for him. There are no airs and graces with Lee, he just loves playing."

Town let their lead slip away

Dudley Town 2 BC Rangers 3
DUDLEY Town let slip a two-goal half-time lead as Black Country Rangers fought back to extend their lead at the top of the West Midlands Premier League.

Danny Ludlow chipped a goal in the third minute and Dreniz Bala made it two before Rangers fought back.

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ANDY STRIKES GOLD WITH BEST-EVER WIN

A BRILLIANT performance saw Andy Marston of Kidderminster's Samurai club take gold at the Commonwealth Judo Championships in the Millennium Centre in Cardiff.

Despite a 30-year career in judo, which includes two victories at the British Junior Nationals and a recent ninth place at the World Masters, this was undoubtedly Marston's best-ever result. Not only did he win the gold medal but he won every match by maximum points.

With some high-quality entrants in the Masters under 81-kilos category, Marston had plenty to do.

His first contest, against South African Francis Vlok, was easily won by a superb shoulder throw for maximum points, and he followed it up with his trademark "uchimata" throw against Irish champion Michael McCamley in the quarter-final.

This put him up against fellow England player Matthew Harte in the semi-final, but Marston was now well in gear and two high-quality throws gave him maximum points and a place in the final.

In the final, staged in spectacular style with dry ice and spotlights and with a substantial television audience, Marston faced the high standard South African Alwyn Grobbelaar, who had devastated the other side of the draw.

However, the contest was less than 20 seconds old when the South African tried his first attack and Marston countered with a superb backwards sweep which launched his opponent into the air and flat onto his back for maximum points, ending the contest.

His father, Mike, started judo at Samurai nearly 30

By Andrew
Haffner

years ago. Andy began at a Dudley club but moved to Samurai and won two British titles as a junior player.

He dropped the sport for a while but when his daughter took an interest and joined the Samurai he came back.

Daughter Frankie is now an England international while grandfather Mike still gets on the mat, and Andy Marston is back in training. Now a third level black belt, his wins at the Commonwealth take him to just one win away from his fourth level black.

Charis Hancocks nearly made it two medals for the club. After losing in the first round to the eventual gold medalist, she fought her way back through the repechage.

A good win against an Australian took her to the bronze play-off where she dominated the contest against another English girl.

But just before the end of the contest the players went to ground and her opponent wound up on top to secure a groundhold which Hancocks could not escape, so she finished in fifth place.

Sarah Biles and Rob Alloway also competed.



Kidderminster Samurai's Andy Marston rises in triumph as he wins the Commonwealth Games Masters at the Millennium Centre, Cardiff. Picture: Ian Curley

Judo twins fight way to medals

KIDDERMINSTER judo twins Sally and Rachel Moon have had a gruelling but medal-laden week.

The girls, who train at Wolverhampton Judo Club, began by competing in Sheffield against top junior players (aged 16-19) for a place on the Junior Great Britain squad.

Sally competed in a tough under-70kg group and battled her way to bronze, beating the Welsh number one on the way.

Rachel managed to finish one place higher in the under-78kg group, taking the silver medal by beating her team-mate, who is currently ranked number two in Britain.

This ensures the twins both have a place on the Junior GB Squad.

Three days later they both represented their club and county at the 2012 Commonwealth Tournament in Cardiff.

They both managed the same placings, Rachel taking the silver in the under-78kgs and Sally bronze in the under-70kgs sections.

To round off the gruelling week, the twins are back on the mat again on Saturday in the Midland under-20 competition at Walsall.

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